Catalogue no. 89-656-X2016016
ISBN 978-0-660-02940-5

Aboriginal Peoples: Fact Sheets

Inuit:
Fact Sheet for Nunavik

by Kristina Smith and Shirley Li
Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division

Release date: March 29, 2016

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website, www.statcan.gc.ca.

You can also contact us by

email at STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca

telephone, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following toll-free numbers:

- Statistical Information Service 1-800-263-1136
- National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired 1-800-363-7629
- Fax line 1-877-287-4369

Depository Services Program

- Inquiries line 1-800-635-7943
- Fax line 1-800-565-7757

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.gc.ca under "Contact us" > "Standards of service to the public."

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

Standard table symbols

The following symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2016

All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the Statistics Canada Open Licence Agreement.

An HTML version **is also available.**

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.

Aboriginal people account for the majority of the population in Nunavik

- Numbering 10,880, 24% of the Aboriginal identity population inside Inuit Nunangat[1] lived in Nunavik in 2011. Aboriginal people made up 90% of the total population of Nunavik.
- Nunavik was home to 10,755 Inuit, 55 First Nations people, and 50 Métis[2] with the rest reporting more than one Aboriginal identity (20). From 2006 to 2011, the Inuit identity population in Nunavik increased by 12%.[3]
- Just over 18% of the Inuit identity population in Canada lived in Nunavik.

About the data sources

The 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) and the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) are the main data sources for this fact sheet. The 2011 NHS collected social and economic data about the Canadian population. The 2012 APS was a national survey of First Nations people **living off reserve**, Métis, and Inuit aged 6 and older. The data are for the **Aboriginal identity population**, which refers to people who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation. It was possible to report both single and multiple responses to the Aboriginal identity questions on the NHS and the APS. The NHS data in this fact sheet are based on single responses only. The APS data represent a combination of the single and multiple Aboriginal identity populations. Nearly all off-reserve First Nations, Métis, and Inuit respondents reported a single identity.

Inuit population younger than non-Aboriginal

- Over half (58%) of Inuit in Nunavik were under the age of 25, compared with 16% of the non-Aboriginal population.
- In 2011, the median age of Inuit was 20.6. This was younger than the non-Aboriginal population, whose median age was 37.4.

Three in five Inuit children live with both parents

- In Nunavik, 58% of Inuit children aged 14 and younger lived in a family with both their parents in 2011. The corresponding percentage for non-Aboriginal children was 85%.
- Three in ten (30%) Inuit children lived in a lone-parent family, a rate that was higher than that for their non-Aboriginal peers (12%).

1. Inuit Nunangat is the homeland of Inuit of Canada and encompasses four regions. Nunavik is the Inuit region in northern Quebec. The other three regions are: Nunatsiavut (Northern coastal Labrador), the territory of Nunavut and the Inuvialuit region (northern Northwest Territories). These regions collectively encompass the area traditionally occupied by Inuit in Canada.
2. While the National Household Survey (NHS) counts for the First Nations and Métis populations in Nunavik are provided here, data for other characteristics are not included because of the small numbers living in the region.
3. A number of factors should be taken into account when comparing data on Aboriginal people over time. Please refer to the *Aboriginal Peoples Reference Guide, National Household Survey, 2011*, Catalogue no. 99-011-X2011006 and the *Aboriginal Peoples Technical Report*, Catalogue no. 99-011-X.

Table 1
Percentage distribution of children aged 14 and under by living arrangement, by selected Aboriginal identity group, Nunavik, 2011

	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population[1]
	percent	
Children of both parents[2]	57.9	84.6
Stepchildren	5.2	0.0
Children of lone parent	30.1	11.5
Grandchildren in skip-generation family	2.0	0.0
Foster children	3.5	0.0
Children living with other relatives[3]	1.1	0.0

1. The non-Aboriginal identity population excludes those who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status.
2. Includes children in a two-parent family where there may also be stepsiblings or half-siblings present. Also includes children in a two-parent family for whom it cannot be determined if they are stepchildren.
3. Non-relatives may be present. Excludes foster children.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Almost half of Inuit live in crowded homes

- In 2011, 49% of Inuit in Nunavik lived in crowded homes, that is, with more than one person per room. The comparable figure for the non-Aboriginal population was 7%.
- Over a third of Inuit (39%) lived in homes in need of major repairs. The corresponding percentage for the non-Aboriginal population was 21%.

Table 2
Percentages living in crowded homes and homes in need of major repairs, by selected Aboriginal identity group, Nunavik, 2011

	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population[1]
	percent	
Crowding[2]	48.8	6.8
Home in need of major[3] repairs	38.7	21.2

1. The non-Aboriginal identity population excludes those who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status.
2. More than one person per room.
3. For example, dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Almost all Inuit report ability to speak an Aboriginal language

- In Nunavik, 99% of Inuit reported the ability to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language. The Aboriginal language most commonly spoken by Inuit was Inuktitut. At the same time, 98% of Inuit reported an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue.
- Not only did 6% of the non-Aboriginal population in Nunavik report an Aboriginal mother tongue, but 15% reported being able to converse in an Aboriginal language.
- Based on results of the Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 96% of Inuit aged 6 and older reported that speaking and understanding an Aboriginal language was important to them.

One Inuit in four has postsecondary qualifications

- In 2011, 24% of Inuit aged 25 to 64 in Nunavik had a certificate, diploma or degree from a trade school, college or university. The comparable percentage for their non-Aboriginal counterparts was 87%.
- Among those with postsecondary credentials, Inuit were more likely than non-Aboriginal graduates to have completed apprenticeship or trades programs.
- There was also a difference in the proportion of Inuit and non-Aboriginal people with "no certificate, diploma or degree". In 2011, 60% of Inuit aged 25 to 64 did not have a certificate, diploma or degree. The corresponding percentage for the non-Aboriginal population was 5%.

Table 3
Highest level of educational attainment of population aged 25 to 64, by selected Aboriginal identity group, Nunavik, 2011

	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population[1]
	percent	
No certificate, diploma or degree	59.7	5.3
High school diploma or equivalent	15.9	7.9
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	24.3	86.8
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	16.7	11.1
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	4.7	20.1
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level[2]	1.4	6.3
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	1.4	49.2

1. The non-Aboriginal identity population excludes those who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status.
2. Comparisons with other data sources suggest that the category "University certificate or diploma below bachelor level" was overreported in the National Household Survey (NHS). The results for this category should be interpreted with caution. For more information on concepts and data quality, refer to the NHS reference guides and *Education Reference Guide* on the Statistics Canada website.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Employment rates and median total income increase with education

- In 2011, the employment rate of Inuit aged 25 to 64 in Nunavik who did not have a certificate, diploma or degree was 55.2%. Employment rates were higher for those with further education. For example, the employment rate of Inuit with postsecondary credentials was 79.3%.

Table 4
Employment rate of population aged 25 to 64, by highest level of educational attainment and selected Aboriginal identity group, Nunavik, 2011

	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population[1]
	employment rate (percent)	
Total	**63.9**	**94.1**
No certificate, diploma or degree	55.2	77.8
High school diploma or equivalent	72.4	86.7
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	79.3	95.2

1. The non-Aboriginal identity population excludes those who reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who reported Registered or Treaty Indian status.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

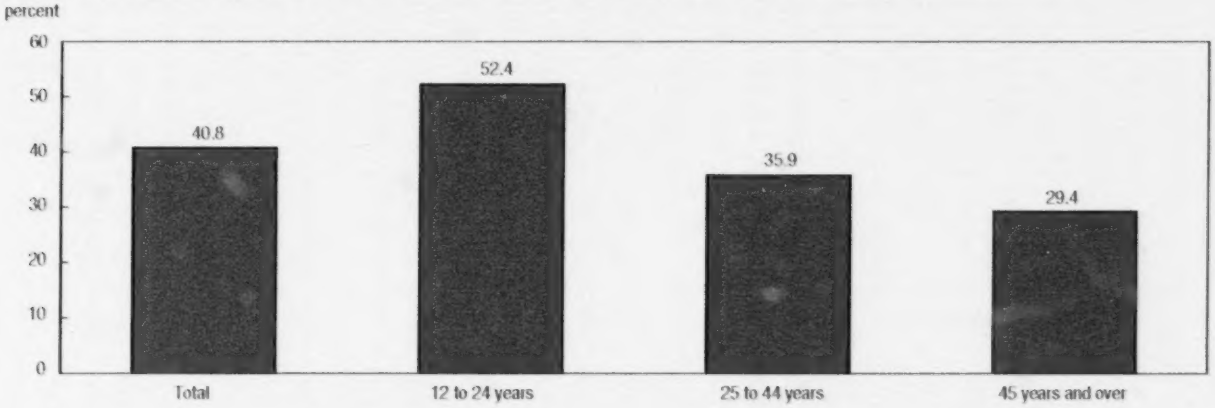
- Median total income[4] was also higher for those with higher education levels. Among Inuit aged 25 to 64, median total income (rounded to the nearest $1,000) ranged from $24,000 for those with no certificate, diploma or degree to $43,000 for those with postsecondary credentials.

4. Total income includes income from all sources, including employment income, income from government programs, pension income, investment income and any other money income. The calculation includes population with income and without income (with an income of zero).

Four in ten Inuit rated their health as excellent or very good

- Based on results of the Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 41% of Inuit aged 12 and older in Nunavik rated their health as excellent or very good in 2012.

Chart 1
Excellent or very good self-rated overall health of Inuit population aged 12 and over, by age group, Nunavik, 2012



Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012.

- A similar proportion (43%) of Inuit aged 18 and older reported excellent or very good mental health.[5]

Table 5
Excellent or very good self-rated mental health of Inuit population aged 18 and over, by age group, Nunavik, 2012

	percent
Total	**43.2**
18 to 24	37.9
25 to 44	45.9
45 and over	43.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012.

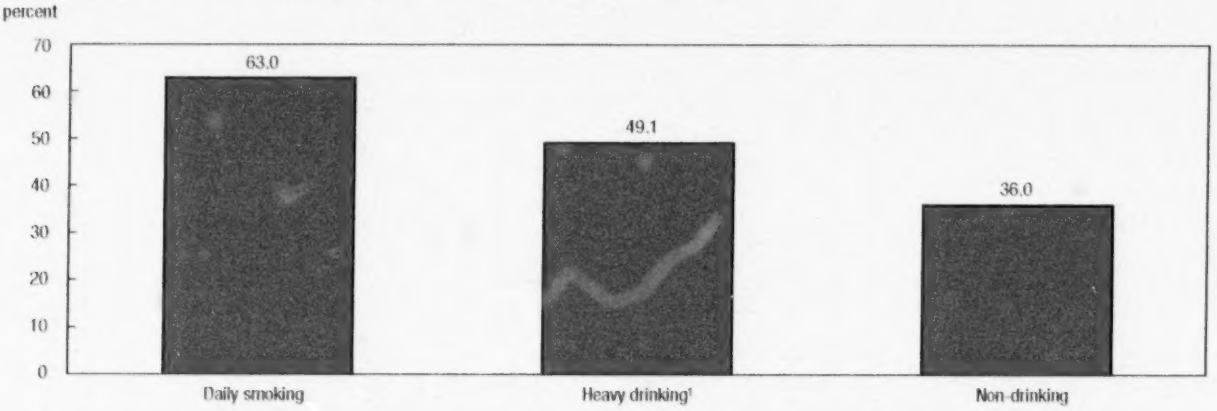
- Three in ten Inuit (30%) 12 and older reported that they had been diagnosed with at least one chronic condition. The most commonly reported condition was high blood pressure (8%).

Six in ten Inuit smoked daily

- In 2012, 63% of Inuit aged 12 and older in Nunavik reported that they smoked daily. At ages 25 to 44, 72% of Inuit reported daily smoking.

5. Questions on self-rated mental health were only asked of respondents who were providing answers to the survey directly, on their own behalf (i.e., data are not available when questionnaires were completed by proxy interview).

Chart 2
Selected health behaviours of Inuit population aged 12 and over, Nunavik, 2012



1. Heavy drinking refers to the consumption of five or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012.

- For Inuit aged 12 and older, the rate of heavy drinking (five or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the previous 12 months) was 49%. At the same time, 36% were non-drinkers; that is, consumed no alcohol in the previous 12 months.

Table 6
Selected health behaviours of Inuit population aged 12 and over, by age group, Nunavik, 2012

	percent
Total	
Daily smoking	63.0
Heavy drinking[1]	49.1
Non-drinking	36.0
12 to 24	
Daily smoking	58.3
Heavy drinking	45.5
Non-drinking	49.8
25 to 44	
Daily smoking	71.6
Heavy drinking	60.1
Non-drinking	18.7
45 and over	
Daily smoking	59.8
Heavy drinking	33.7
Non-drinking	38.0

1. Heavy drinking refers to the consumption of five or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the 12 months preceding the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012.